stabilise the price of rubber in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Domestic average prices of RMA-4 grade of rubber in the last three years were as below:

(In Rs./Tonnes)

Year	PMA-4 Rubber
1983-84	17510
1984-85	16570
1985-86	17320

(b) Domestic average prices of RMA-4 grade of rubber in the last three months were as below:

(in Rs. tonne)

Month	RMA-4 Rubber
April	17340
May	17380
June	16800

(c) Prices have all along been ruling above the desired price objective of Rs. 16500 tonne for MRA-4 grade of rubber.

(d) Government have introduced a buffer stocking scheme to stabilize domestic market prices of rubber.

Jute laminating industry

800. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the crisis in the jute laminating industry in the country due to acute demand recession in laminated jute bags with the increasing use of synthetic HDPE/PP bags by the cement and fertiliser industries resulting in huge loses to the jute laminating industry besides rendering massive labour force unemployed; and

(b) if so, what steps are contemplated by Government to improve the situation in the jute laminating industry to make it economically viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) Government are aware of the competition to jute industry and jute laminating industry in the country from the synthetic substitutes. Following steps have been taken to improve the situation for jute and jute laminating industry:

(1) Imposition of Excise Duty on HDPE/PPTABLES and marginal increase of import duty in granuels in the present union budget to improve competitiveness of jute industry.

(2) Railways have been persuaded to withdraw their earlier order for packing salt in synthetic bags only for transportation with effect from 1.7.86. Railways are now continuing to accept salt packed in jute bags.

(3) Introduction of scheme of buffer stock of raw jute for avoiding wide fluctuation in the price of raw jute so that jute goods prices remain competitive.

(4) Pursuing other Departments to encourage use of more jute bags instead of synthetic substitutes of packing fertilisers etc. and compulsory use of 100 per cent new jute bags by Cement Industry.

Workers' participation in private sector

801. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gov-

ernment have had discussions with the Central trade unions on the question of workers' participation in management in the private sector; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what decision were arrived at in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The Scheme for Employees' participation in Management was introduced *vide* Resolution No. L-56011/1/83-D.I(B) dated 30th Dec., 1983. The Scheme is applicable to the Central Public Sector Undertakings. The State Governments have also been requested to introduce the scheme in their own Public Sector Undertakings and also to encourage the Private Sector to implement the scheme in terms of para 8 of the Scheme (copy enclosed) [*See* Appendix CXXXIX. Annexure No. 47.]

The Tripartite Committee, constituted under the Scheme, comprising of representatives of some of the Central Ministries/State Governments. Major Public Sector Undertakings and Central Trade Union Organisations reviews the progress of the Scheme from time to time and to suggesst remedial measures. The progress of the Scheme has also been discussed in the various Tripartite Industrial Committees.

The issue of Workers' Participation in Management was discussed by the Indian Labour Conference held on the 25-26th November, 1985. The Conference agreed in principle to the implementation of the Scheme on Workers' Participation in Management, in Public, Private and Co-operative Sectors. The question whether the Scheme should be implemented by legislation as also the modalities of its implementation have been entrusted by the Indian Labour Conference to the Standing Labour Committee.

Rehabilitation of Sick Textile Units

802. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the new textile policy announced in June, 1985 decided to tackle sick textile units on a case by case basis;

(b) if so, what is the progress made in this direction during the last one year; and

(c) how many sick units have been provided with rehabilitation package?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Nodal Agency to evolve and manage rehabilitation packages in respect of sick/closed textile mills was notified by the Government 14.1.1986. The Nodal Agency has so far considered 56 sick mills in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Maharashtra. Rehabilitation packages of 22 mills have been formulated out of which 13 mills have accepted rehabilitation packages formulated by IDBI.

Allegations against Chairman, TFAI

803. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news report which appeared in the Evening News of 28th June, 1986 in which serious allegations have been made against the Chairman of the Trade Fair Authority of India for alloting space in Hall No. 12 at the Pragati Maidan for a commercial concern disregarding rules and regulations;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in the matter?